In the claims:

1-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) A software tool installed on and operating [[on]] from a computer appliance for versioning and Configuration Management of data models in a computing system comprising[[;]]:

a modeling means in which associations are augmented with [[the]] a notion of ownership;

a component means for arbitrarily grouping model elements including at least ~~containing~~ objects, associations and properties; said component means having a mechanism for versioning;

the component further having means to create a tree of component versions; with further means to support change isolation; and

a configuration as a unit for assembling component versions providing a binding context for associations between objects contained in the assembled component versions; the configuration having means to interpret [[the]] semantics of association of the ownership to determine [[the]] completeness and compatibility of the assembled component versions.

wherein interpreting the semantics at least determine if any of the associations of the ownership of any of the component versions of said configuration are unbound in the configuration.

20. (Previously presented) The software tool of claim 19, wherein the version mechanism of the component is flexible to permit a user to include a plurality of objects as determined by the user.

21. (Previously presented) The software tool of claim 19, wherein configuration includes means to track configuration evolution history.

22. (Previously presented) The software tool of claim 19, in which a facility is provided to track component version evolution history.

23. (Previously presented) The software tool of claim 19, having means to support a plurality of models and meta models.

24. (Currently amended) A method for versioning and Configuration Management of models in a computing system comprising the steps of[[;]]:

(a) providing modeling means for augmenting associations with [[the]] a notion of ownership;

(b) providing a component means for ~~containing~~ arbitrarily grouping model elements including at least objects, associations and properties; said component means having a mechanism for versioning;

(c) creating a tree of component versions further having means to support change isolation;

(d) providing a configuration as a unit for assembling component versions and providing a binding context for associations between objects contained in the assembled component versions; and

(e) interpreting [[the]] semantics of association ownership to determine [[the]] completeness and compatibility of the assembled component versions, the interpretation of the semantics at least determining if any of the associations of the ownership of any of the component versions of said configuration are unbound in the configuration.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the version mechanism of the component is flexible to permit a user to include a plurality of objects as determined by the user.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the configuration includes means to track configuration evolution history.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, in which a step is provided to track component version evolution history.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, having means in step (a) to support a plurality of models and meta models.